

an IC card which has a memory having a plurality of point storage areas, each of said point storage areas storing point data, which is assigned corresponding to a customer's use, and a point management application for processing data encrypted by said encryption key and including point data, and for managing access to each of said point storage areas by said register store number; and

a reading and writing apparatus which reads and writes said IC card by using said register store number and said encryption key.

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22. An IC card comprising:

a memory having a plurality of point storage areas, each of said point storage areas storing point data which is assigned corresponding to a customer's use by a store having a register store number and an encryption key, both of which are peculiar to said store; and

a point management application for processing data, which is transmitted from outside of said memory of said IC card, encrypted by said encryption key and includes point data, and for managing access to each of said point storage areas by said register store number.

23. A method of issuing point data to an IC card, the method comprising the steps of:

having said IC card inserted into a reader and writer which has an encryption key and register store number, both of which are peculiar to a store,

wherein said IC card includes a memory having a plurality of point storage areas, each of which stores point data, and a point management application which manages access to each of said point storage areas; and

transmitting to said IC card point data encrypted by said encryption key, said point data being decrypted by said point management application and said register store number by which said point management application allows access to one of said point storage areas, which corresponds to the store.

24. A method of transmitting point data to an IC card with a reader and writer of a store, the method comprising the steps of:

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setting said IC card into said reader and writer, to which an encryption key and a register store number are uniquely assigned, said IC card including a memory which has plurality of point storage areas for storing said point data, and a point management application which processes said point data and manages access to said point storage areas;

inputting point data encrypted by said encryption key to said IC card, said point data being issued corresponding to a customer's use;

decrypting encrypted point data by said point management application;
and

storing decrypted point data into one of said point storage areas in accordance with said register store number by said point management application.

25. A point management system comprising:

a point system management apparatus which registers a store which participates in a point system, and which provides the store with a register store number which is peculiar to the store;

an IC card having a memory which includes a plurality of point storage areas each storing point data which is assigned corresponding to a customer's use, and a point management application which manages access to each of said point storage areas by said register store number and which secures a point storage area to store point data of a new store if use of said IC card in the new store is a first time; and

reading and writing apparatus which reads and writes said IC card by using said register store number.

26. An IC card comprising:

a memory having a plurality of point storage areas storing point data which is assigned corresponding to a customer's use; and

a point management application which manages access to each of said point storage areas by said register store number and which secures a point storage area to store point data of a new store if use of said IC card in the new store is a first time.

27. A point management system comprising:

point system management apparatus which registers stores which participate in a point system, and which provides each of the stores with a register

store number which is peculiar to the store, and provides to a group of stores a group number which is peculiar to the group of stores;

an IC card having a memory having a plurality of point storage areas storing point data which is assigned by each of the stores corresponding to a customer's use and a group point storage area storing group point data which is assigned by the stores corresponding to a customer's use, and a point management application which manages access to each of said point storage areas by said register store number and which manages access to said group point storage area by said group number; and

reading and writing apparatus which reads and writes said IC card by using said register store number and said group number.

28. An IC card comprising:

a memory having plurality of point storage areas storing point data which is assigned by stores each having a register store number which is peculiar to said store corresponding to a customer's use, and a group point storage area storing group point data which is assigned by the stores having a group number which is peculiar to the stores corresponding to a customer's use; and

point management application which manages access to each of said point storage areas by said register store number and which manages access to said group storage area by said group number.

29. An IC card according to claim 22, wherein said point management application distinguishes data transmitted from a reading and writing apparatus of several stores and records points in an area to record them within said plurality of point storage areas of said memory.

30. An IC card according to claim 29, wherein said point management application allows access to an area that corresponds to transmitted data and prohibits access to other areas.

31. An IC card according to claim 29, wherein said point management application allows writing point data into an area that corresponds to transmitted data, and prohibits writing to other areas, and reads point data from both an area that corresponds to transmitted data and another store's area.

32. A point management system according to claim 25, wherein said point management application distinguishes data transmitted from a reading and writing apparatus of several stores and records points in an area them within said plurality of point storage areas of said memory.

33. A point management system according to claim 32, wherein said point management application allows access to an area that corresponds to transmitted data and prohibits access to other areas.

34. A point management system according to claim 32, wherein said point management application allows writing point data into an area that corresponds to transmitted data, and prohibits writing to other areas, and reads point data from both an area that corresponds to transmitted data and another store's area.

35. An IC card according to claim 22, wherein each of said point storage areas has a history storage area storing times of using said IC card in the store corresponding to said point storage area.

36. A point management system according to claim 25, wherein said point management applications writes an encryption key peculiar to the new store when securing the point storage area for the new store.

37. A point management system according to claim 25, wherein each of said point storage areas has a history storage area storing times of using said IC card in the store corresponding to said point storage area. --

REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. The attached is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

The present Amendment cancels claims 1-20 and adds new claims 21-37. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 21-37.